

REMARKS**Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1 and 3-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable by Cai (U.S. Patent No. 5,793,643). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claim 1 recites identifying any line having a line width marker and line width parameter and comparing the line width parameter with an actual line width for the line.

Cai indicates that a user specifies line width (Abstract, Figure 6 and column 5, lines 44-45) or a channel router may automatically select the width of the wire according to pre-programmed guidelines (column 5 lines 45-47). This is not the same as identifying any line having a line width marker and line width parameter. In fact, there is no indication of any of Cai's wires having a line width marker, as recited in claim 1. Rather, Cai marks columns/rows of a grid map (Figure 6) corresponding to a wire's width. Moreover, Cai determines whether a column/row of the grid map is occupied by a wire by checking whether the column/row is marked corresponding to the wire's width (Figure 6). If the column/row is marked, there is a violation, and a wire cannot be placed there. Applicant contends that this refers entirely to a layout of the lines and that there is no indication in Cai of comparing a line width parameter with an actual line width for the line, as recited in claim 1. Therefore, Cai does not include each and every recitation of claim 1, so claim 1 should be allowed.

Claims 3-11 depend from claim 1 and thus are allowable for at least the same reason as claim 1. Therefore, claims 3-11 should be allowed.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2 and 12-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cai in view of Suzuki (U.S. Patent No. 5,706,295).

Claim 1 is patentably distinct from Cai. Moreover, Cai in combination with Suzuki fails to overcome the deficiencies of Cai with respect to claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable over Cai in view of Suzuki. Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and is thus allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Therefore, claim 2 should be allowed.

Claims 12 and 16 each recite identifying any line having a line width marker and line width parameter and comparing the line width parameter with an actual line width for the line.

As indicated above in conjunction with claim 1, there is no indication of any of Cai's wires having a line width marker, nor does Cai compare a line width parameter with an actual line width for the line. Therefore, claims 12 and 16 are patentably distinct from Cai. Moreover, Cai in combination with Suzuki fails to overcome the deficiencies of Cai with respect to claims 12 and 16. Therefore, claims 12 and 16 are allowable over Cai in view of Suzuki.

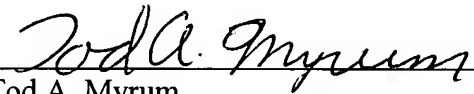
Claims 13-15 depend from claim 12 and thus are allowable for at least the same reason as claim 12. Claims 17-19 depend from claim 16 and thus are allowable for at least the same reason as claim 16. Therefore, claims 13-15 and 17-19 should be allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, Applicant believes that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this application, please contact the undersigned at (612) 312-2208.

Respectfully submitted,

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